

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The specification has been amended to address the minor informalities noted in paragraph "5" on page four of the Official Action, and to address several other minor inadvertent typographical and grammatical errors. No new matter has been introduced. Withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

One of the changes incorporated into the specification involves amending the brief description of Fig. 3 to note that such drawing figure is a cross-section taken along the section line A-A in Fig. 9. Also, the wording in Claim 7 has been amended and no longer recites the original claim wording. In light of the amendment to the specification involving the brief description of Fig. 3 and the amendment to Claim 7, withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested.

The specification has also been amended to delete, at the top of page one of the application, the reference to the priority application. Accordingly, the issue raised at the bottom of page three of the Official Action has been addressed.

The wording in independent Claim 1 has been changed to delete the references to the engaged means and the engaging means. Also, the wording in Claims 2 and 7 have been changed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejection based on the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

The only other issue raised in the Official Action involves the rejection of independent Claim 1 and various dependent claims, on the basis of the disclosure contained in U.S. Patent No. 6,719,336 to Sato. As explained in more detail below, the outside handle device at issue here differs from the disclosure in Sato.

To better set forth how the outside handle device at issue here differs from the disclosure in *Sato*, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the arm portion of the handle portion extends into the handle frame, with the distal end of the arm portion contacting the handle frame at a position about which the handle portion rotates when the handle portion is rotated to open the vehicle door. In addition, Claim 1 recites first and second members provided at the arm portion and the handle frame respectively, with the first member being located at a position different from the distal end of the arm portion.

Sato discloses a door handle construction that includes an outside handle 3 fixed to an attachment face element 5a provided on the vehicle door outer panel 5. The outside handle 3 is provided with a base portion 31. As shown in Fig. 4, the base portion 31 includes an axis 31a about which the grip portion 32 of the outside handle 3 rotates as discussed in column 5 lines 30-34 of *Sato*. Thus, *Sato* does not disclose that the distal end of the arm portion contacts the handle frame at a position about which the handle portion rotates when the handle portion is rotated to open the vehicle door, together with a first member provided at the arm portion and located at a position different from the distal end of arm portion as set forth in independent Claim 1. It is thus respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in *Sato*.

The Official Action also relies upon the disclosure contained in U.S. Patent No. 6,648,493 to *Klein*. It is said that this document discloses an electrical component accommodated in a handle portion of an outside door handle. However, the disclosure in *Klein* does not make up for the deficiencies pointed out above with respect to the disclosure in *Sato*. Accordingly, the combined disclosures contained

in *Sato* and *Klein* would not have directed one to do that which is defined in independent Claim 1 as the invention.

Claims 2-9 depend from independent Claim 1 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable claim. These claims also define further distinguishing characteristics associated with the claimed outside handle device. For example, Claim 3 recites the first connecting element that is pivotally mounted on the arm portion and electrically connected to the electrical component, and the second connecting element that is provided at the handle frame in electrical engagement with the first connecting element. Claims 4-9 go on to define additional distinguishing characteristics associated with the electrical component, the first connecting element and the second connecting element. The door handle disclosed in *Sato* does not include the additional features recited in these claims.

New independent Claim 10 has been added and recites that the outside handle device comprises a handle frame provided inside a vehicle door, a handle portion located outside the vehicle door and comprising an arm portion, at least one protrusion provided on the arm portion or the handle frame, and at least one groove provided on the other of the arm portion and the handle frame. In addition, Claim 10 recites that the protrusion is positioned in the groove and slides along the groove when the handle portion is assembled to the handle frame. Further, Claim 10 recites that the handle portion is rotatable about an axis that is spaced from the axis of the protrusion as one end portion of the handle portion is rotated away from the vehicle door to open the vehicle door.

In the door lock disclosed in *Sato*, the handle portion is rotatable about the axis 31a. There is thus no disclosure of the handle portion being rotatable about an

axis spaced from the axis of the protrusion as recited in Claim 10. Thus, new independent Claim 10 and new dependent Claims 11-20 are allowable.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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